

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 and 15-20 without prejudice.

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (ORIGINAL) A trash can assembly, comprising:

an outer shell having an interior, an upper end and a lower end;

a base secured to the lower end of the outer shell;

a lid pivotably coupled to the upper end of the outer shell for movement between an open position and a closed position;

a pedal pivotably coupled to the base, and having an inner end; and

a link rod having an upper end pivotably coupled to the lid and a lower end coupled to the inner end of the pedal, with the entire link rod being positioned inside the interior of the outer shell.

9. (ORIGINAL) The assembly of claim 8, wherein the lid is pivotably coupled to the upper end of the outer shell about a pivot axis for movement between the open position and the closed position, with the pivot axis positioned inside the interior of the outer shell.

10. (ORIGINAL) The assembly of claim 8, further including a support frame attached to the upper end of the outer shell, the support frame having a straight portion that lies inside the interior of the outer shell, with an opening defined between the upper end of the outer shell and the straight portion, so that the upper end of the link rod extends through the opening.

11. (ORIGINAL) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the opening lies inside the interior of the outer shell.

12. (ORIGINAL) A trash can assembly, comprising:  
an outer shell having an interior, an upper end and a lower end;  
a base secured to the lower end of the outer shell;  
a lid pivotably coupled to the upper end of the outer shell about a pivot axis for movement between an open position and a closed position;  
a pedal pivotably coupled to the base, and having an inner end; and  
a link rod having an upper end pivotably coupled to the lid and a lower end coupled to the inner end of the pedal;  
wherein the pivot axis is positioned inside the interior of the outer shell.

13. (ORIGINAL) The assembly of claim 12, further including a support frame attached to the upper end of the outer shell, the support frame having a straight portion that lies inside the interior of the outer shell, with an opening defined between the upper end of the outer shell and the straight portion, so that the upper end of the link rod extends through the opening.

14. (ORIGINAL) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the opening lies inside the interior of the outer shell.

15-20. (Canceled).